

**Applicant Name**      Shelby, City of  
**Project Name**      Shelby Water System Improvements

### **Project Abstract**

The City of Shelby has been very fortunate in the insight and forethought of community leaders to address water-related issues efficiently and in a timely manner before dire problems threatened the water system. Several projects are top priority for the water system at this time. The city water system was established over 65 years ago, with original wells drilled in the 1940s. The well field is seven miles south of Shelby on the Marias River. Twelve wells produce water for the City of Shelby. Recently, well number four was found by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to be susceptible to groundwater contamination. A new well was completed in 2005 and a new well house will be completed this spring. A new disinfection facility was also completed last fall to address pressing water issues. Completion of this water source project will include protection of the wells from flood waters, especially in the areas immediately adjacent to the well heads. An impervious seal 100 feet in diameter will be completed to prevent flood waters from percolating along the casings and directly into the well influence area.

Within the City of Shelby many of the original water lines are still in operation, but quickly deteriorating. The city has spent considerable time and expense in repairing the aging asbestos cement piping. In just the last two years, the city has incurred over \$20,000 in road repair costs and an additional \$20,000 in overtime wages to city employees working on the leaks and major breaks associated with these older lines. Not only is the city concerned with the health and safety risks of these old service lines and the tremendous expense they are creating for the community, but also the inadequacy in size of lines to meet essential fire flow and service needs. These projects are of immediate concern in regard to potential impact of contamination, inadequate fire flows and service needs, high maintenance requirements, and water loss.